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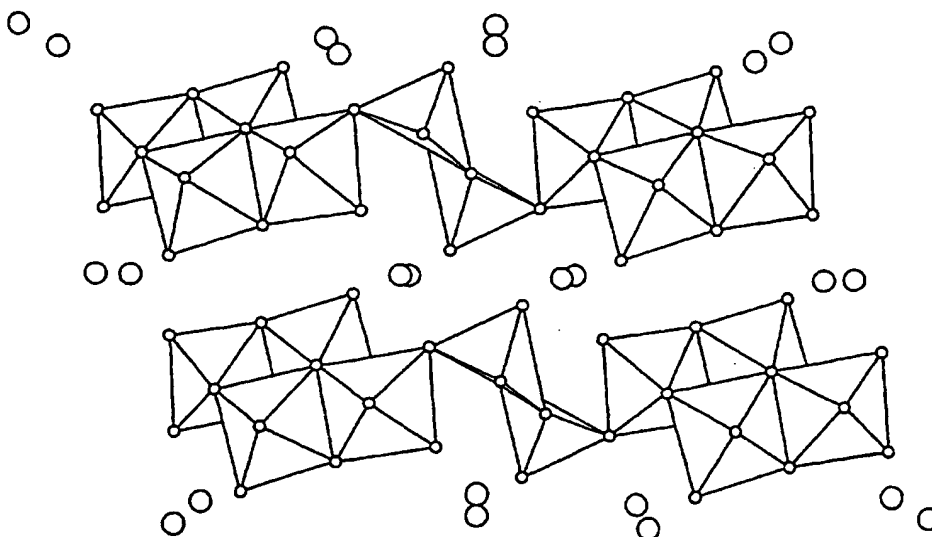
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(54) Title: MODIFIED LITHIUM VANADIUM OXIDE ELECTRODE MATERIALS, PRODUCTS, AND METHODS



(57) Abstract: Improved lithium vanadium oxide formulations are presented having a nominal formula of  $\text{Li}_x\text{V}_{3.5}\text{M}_5\text{O}_y$ . Herein preferred cation doped vanadium oxide materials, electrodes using such materials, and electrochemical cells including at least one electrode therein comprising such materials are provided.

WO 01/22507 A1

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## MODIFIED LITHIUM VANADIUM OXIDE ELECTRODE MATERIALS, PRODUCTS, AND METHODS

### Field of the Invention

5           The present invention relates to certain modified lithium vanadium oxides. Included are preferred oxides according to the general formula  $\text{Li}_x\text{V}_{3-\delta}\text{M}_\delta\text{O}_8$ , wherein M can be a variety of cations (or a mixture of cations). The invention concerns the utilization of such oxide materials as electrode materials, for example, as cathode materials in lithium batteries. The disclosure concerns preferred  
10       formulations of such materials, preferred methods for preparation, products including such materials and methods of use.

### Background of the Invention

          The negative electrode (anode) of a high density lithium battery typically  
15       comprises one or more of a variety of any suitable lithium-containing substances such as: metallic lithium; lithium-metal alloys; lithium metal oxides; or, lithium carbon composites. The positive electrode (cathode) is typically a lithium vanadium oxide of the formula  $\text{LiV}_3\text{O}_8$ . The electrodes may be coupled using a liquid electrolyte or a solid electrolyte such as a solid polymer electrolyte, or a  
20       combination of liquid and solid electrolytes. The electrolyte may specifically be a "plasticized" electrolyte in which a liquid electrolyte component is contained within a polymer electrolyte. During discharge, lithium ions are electrochemically inserted into the lithium vanadium oxide structure by a process that is commonly referred to as intercalation. A reverse process occurs during charge. The  
25       vanadium ions of the host electrode structure are reduced and oxidized during discharge and charge, respectively. Conversely, the negative electrode is oxidized during discharge when lithium ions are released from the electrode into the electrolyte, and it is reduced during the reverse process on charge. Lithium ions, therefore, shuttle between the two electrodes during the electrochemical discharge  
30       and charge processes.

          It is advantageous for batteries, such as lithium batteries, to have a high electrochemical "capacity" or energy storage capability. In lithium batteries, this

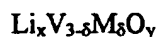
can be achieved if the positive and negative electrodes can accommodate a significant amount of lithium. Furthermore, in order to have a good cycle life, the positive and negative electrodes should preferably have the ability to accommodate and release lithium in a reversible manner, i.e., without significant "capacity fade."

- 5 Thus, preferably, the structural integrity of the electrodes should be maintained during lithium insertion/extraction for numerous cycles.

### Summary of the Invention

According to the present invention, a vanadium oxide material doped with one or more cations is provided. The invention also concerns the provision of  
10 electrodes including lithium vanadium oxide according to the preferred general formula; and, batteries including an electrode as characterized.

In one embodiment, the present invention provides a vanadium oxide material according to the average formula:



15 wherein:

- (a)  $0 < \delta \leq 1.0$ ;
- (b)  $7.8 < y \leq 8.2$ ;
- (c) x is non-zero;
- (d) x and y are selected such that the average, calculated  
20 oxidation state of V is at least 4.7; and
- (e) M represents a mixture of at least two different cations.

In a second embodiment, the present invention provides a vanadium oxide material according to the average formula:



wherein:

- (a)  $0 < \delta \leq 1.0$ ;
- (b)  $7.8 < y \leq 8.2$ ;
- (c) x is non-zero;
- (d) x and y are selected such that the average, calculated  
30 oxidation state of V is at least 4.7; and

- (e) M represents Mo, Cr, Nb, or mixtures thereof.

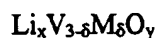
In a third embodiment, the present invention provides an electrode having a vanadium oxide material according to the average formula:



wherein:

- (a)  $0 < \delta \leq 1.0$ ;  
(b)  $7.8 < y \leq 8.2$ ;  
(c) x is non-zero;  
10 (d) x and y are selected such that the average, calculated oxidation state of V is at least 4.7; and  
(e) M represents a mixture of at least two different cations.

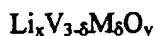
In a fourth embodiment, the present invention provides an electrode having  
15 a vanadium oxide material according to the average formula:



wherein:

- (a)  $0 < \delta \leq 1.0$ ;  
(b)  $7.8 < y \leq 8.2$ ;  
20 (c) x is non-zero;  
(d) x and y are selected such that the average, calculated oxidation state of V is at least 4.7; and  
(e) M represents Mo, Cr, Nb, or mixtures thereof.

25 In a fifth embodiment, the present invention provides an electrochemical cell having a cathode containing a vanadium oxide material according to the average formula:

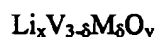


wherein:

- 30 (a)  $0 < \delta \leq 1.0$ ;  
(b)  $7.8 < y \leq 8.2$ ;  
(c) x is non-zero;

- (d) x and y are selected such that the average, calculated oxidation state of V is at least 4.7; and
- (e) M represents a mixture of at least two different cations.

5 In a sixth embodiment, the present invention provides an electrochemical cell having a cathode containing a vanadium oxide material according to the average formula:



wherein:

- 10 (a)  $0 < \delta \leq 1.0$ ;
- (b)  $7.8 < y \leq 8.2$ ;
- (c) x is non-zero;
- (d) x and y are selected such that the average, calculated oxidation state of V is at least 4.7; and
- 15 (e) M represents Mo, Cr, Nb, or mixtures thereof.

### Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is the powder X-ray diffraction pattern of a standard  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$  material.

20 Figure 2 is the powder X-ray diffraction pattern of a  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.8}\text{Ti}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.1}\text{O}_8$  material.

Figure 3 is the powder X-ray diffraction pattern of a  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.9}\text{Ti}_{0.05}\text{Mo}_{0.05}\text{O}_8$  material.

25 Figure 4 is the powder X-ray diffraction pattern of a  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.8}\text{Zr}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.1}\text{O}_8$  material.

Figure 5 is the powder X-ray diffraction pattern of a  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.7}\text{Y}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.2}\text{O}_8$  material.

Figure 6 is the powder X-ray diffraction pattern of a  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.7}\text{Sc}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.2}\text{O}_8$  material.

30 Figure 7 is the powder X-ray diffraction pattern of a  $\text{V}_{1.8}\text{Ti}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.1}\text{O}_5$  precursor material.

Figure 8 is the powder X-ray diffraction pattern of a  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.7}\text{Ti}_{0.15}\text{Mo}_{0.15}\text{O}_8$  material derived from the precursor in Figure 7.

Figure 9 is a typical voltage profile for a standard  $\text{Li}/\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$ .

Figure 10 is a typical voltage profile for a  $\text{Li}/\text{Li}_x\text{V}_{3-y}\text{M}_y\text{O}_8$  cell of the present invention.

Figure 11 is the capacity vs. cycle number plot for a standard  $\text{Li}/\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$  cell for 20 cycles.

Figure 12 is the capacity vs. cycle number plot for a  $\text{Li}/\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.8}\text{Ti}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.1}\text{O}_8$  cell for 20 cycles.

Figure 13 is the capacity vs. cycle number plot for a  $\text{Li}/\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.9}\text{Ti}_{0.05}\text{Mo}_{0.05}\text{O}_8$  cell for 20 cycles.

Figure 14 is the capacity vs. cycle number plot for a  $\text{Li}/\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.8}\text{Zr}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.1}\text{O}_8$  cell for 20 cycles.

Figure 15 is the capacity vs. cycle number plot for a  $\text{Li}/\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.7}\text{Y}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.2}\text{O}_8$  cell for 20 cycles.

Figure 16 is a representation of the structure of  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$ .

Figure 17 is a structural representation of a discharged electrode product  $\text{Li}_4\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$ .

Figure 18 is a schematic representation of an electrochemical cell.

Figure 19 is a second schematic representation of an electrochemical cell.

### Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments

#### **I. A General Description of Lithium Vanadium Oxide Electrode Materials**

A preferred vanadium oxide electrode material, for use with respect to lithium batteries of concern to the present invention will be referenced generally as having a nominal formula of  $\text{Li}_x\text{V}_3\text{O}_y$ , wherein x is non-zero, preferably about 1.0 to about 1.5, and more preferably about 1.2, y is preferably greater than about 7.8 and no greater than about 8.2, and more preferably about 8.0. The crystalline structure of this material is relatively stable, and is favorable with respect to intercalation. This nominal or base formula is the approximate formula at

complete charge. Oxides of this nominal formula  $\text{Li}_x\text{V}_3\text{O}_y$  exhibit distinctive X-ray diffraction patterns (XRD) and crystalline structures, as discussed below.

The specific preferred stoichiometry for the most stable electrode in the completely charged state is  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$ . By this it is meant that the preferred  
5 material is formulated from precursor materials such that in a fully charged cell the average formulation of the cathode, with respect to the vanadium oxide component, is  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$ . The average (calculated) vanadium valence in  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$  is 4.933 or "nominally" 5.

As the battery is discharged, lithium cations are inserted into the crystalline  
10  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$  electrode structure. This reduces the average oxidation state of the vanadium ions from 4.933 in  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$  to 4.0 in  $\text{Li}_4\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$ , which represents the approximate composition of the positive electrode in a discharged cell.

According to the present invention, the nominal  $\text{Li}_x\text{V}_3\text{O}_y$  structure (wherein x and y are as defined above) typically and preferably  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$ , is modified to  
15 advantage. The modification, in part, concerns "doping" the crystalline structure with one or more cations.

## II. Preferred Modified Electrode Materials

In further embodiments of the present invention, substitution of vanadium  
20 by another element, preferably a cation in addition to lithium, is used. This can also be a method of maintaining the average, calculated oxidation state of vanadium at a value of at least 4.7 (preferably at least 4.8, more preferably at least 4.85, even more preferably at least 4.9, and most preferably at or near 4.933) in the fully charged state. By definition the oxidation state of vanadium is no greater  
25 than 5.0, and preferably no greater than 4.95.

Substitution of one or more (preferably, two or more) cations, particularly one or more (preferably, two or more) metal cations, for some of the vanadium in the material results in a general formula as follows:  $\text{Li}_x\text{V}_{3-\delta}\text{M}_\delta\text{O}_y$ , wherein x and y are as defined above, and  $\delta$  is greater than zero and typically no greater than about  
30 1.0. A base formula for a preferred group of such stabilized compounds would be as follows:  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{3-\delta}\text{M}_\delta\text{O}_8$  wherein M is a cation (or mixture of two or more cations). Suitable cations are those that are sufficiently small such that they can fit

into sites previously occupied by vanadium (typically, octahedral sites) and/or sites previously occupied by lithium (typically, octahedral or tetrahedral sites). In general, it is preferred to use a cation M (or mixture of two or more cations M), which does not, in the amounts used, generate a significant amount of a second impurity phase along with  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$ .

Preferred cations, M, are those selected from Mg, Al, Si, P, Sc, Ti, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ge, Y, Zr, Nb, Ta, Mo, La, Hf, W, or mixtures thereof. More preferred cations, M, are those that form strong M-O bonds, such as Mg, Al, Si, Sc, Ti, Y, Zr, Mo, or mixtures thereof. For certain particularly preferred embodiments, the cations, M, are Mo, Cr, Nb, or mixtures thereof. For certain other particularly preferred embodiments, the cations, M, are Mg, Al, Y, Ti, Zr, Mo, or mixtures thereof. Of these, titanium and/or zirconium are particularly preferred, although other cations and even mixtures, can be used. The titanium or zirconium doped systems are advantageous because of the relatively strong titanium-oxygen or zirconium-oxygen bonds in the crystal structure. It can be reasoned that such bonds will serve to strengthen and maintain the integrity of the overall crystal structure, particularly during cell operation when lithium is being repeatedly inserted into and extracted from the structure, and to suppress oxygen loss from the structure as the electrode approaches the fully charged state.

In various embodiments of the present invention, it is possible to use two or more different cations as substituents for some of the vanadium ions. For example, it is possible to replace two pentavalent vanadium ions ( $\text{V}^{5+}$ ) in the lithium-vanadium-oxide crystal lattice by one hexavalent molybdenum ( $\text{Mo}^{6+}$ ) ion and one tetravalent zirconium ( $\text{Zr}^{4+}$ ) or titanium ( $\text{Ti}^{4+}$ ) ion. In this instance, substitution of two metal cations for some of the vanadium in the material results in the general formula:  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{3-2\delta}\text{M}'_{\delta}\text{M}''_{\delta}\text{O}_8$ . Thus, as an example, for  $\text{M}' = \text{Mo}^{+6}$ ,  $\text{M}'' = \text{Ti}^{+4}$ ,  $\delta = 0.1$ , a preferred formula would be:  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.8}\text{Mo}_{0.1}\text{Ti}_{0.1}\text{O}_{8.0}$ .

### III. Methods of Preparation

Materials according to the present invention can be readily prepared by modifications of known techniques for the manufacture of  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$ . For example,  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$  electrode materials can be prepared by mixing  $\text{LiOH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  with  $\text{NH}_4\text{VO}_3$



and suspending the mixture in methanol to form a reaction mixture. This reaction mixture is preferably subsequently milled for a time period of about 24 hours to about 48 hours, and the remaining methanol removed (e.g., by evaporation), resulting in a dry solid precursor of  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$ . The precursor can then be heated to a temperature of about 20°C to about 400°C, at a heating rate of about 1°C/minute for a time period of about 24 hours, and then cooled to room temperature at a cooling rate of about 1°C/minute. The resulting product may then be ground to a fine powder, for example, by high energy ball milling during which the powders are agitated at high frequency (for example, in a spherical stainless steel container with one steel grinding ball in a Spex #8000D Miller/Mixer (Metuchen, NJ)) for about 96 hours or less. This milling process reduces the particle size significantly and eliminates the need for fluorine doping to reduce particle size.

In addition to employing vanadium cations in preparing materials of the invention, other metal cations may also be introduced into the crystal structure of the lithium vanadium oxide material. For example, titanium may be introduced into the reaction mixture prepared above by the further addition of  $\text{Ti}[\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2]_4$ . Similarly, zirconium and molybdenum may also be introduced to the reaction mixture by the addition of  $\text{Zr}[\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2]_4$ ,  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHOH}$  and  $\text{MoO}_3$ , respectively. Additionally, other metal cations that may be added to the reaction mixture include yttrium and scandium. Yttrium may be introduced into the reaction mixture by the addition of  $\text{Y}_5\text{O}[\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2]_{13}$ . Scandium may be introduced into the reaction mixture by the addition of  $\text{Sc}[\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2]_3$ . For other cations, the precursor compounds can be selected from oxides, hydroxides, alkoxides, oxalates, acetates, nitrates, or mixtures thereof.

Electrodes can be prepared from the oxide base material by coating onto a metallic current collector a slurry containing the oxide base, a polymeric binder such as polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF), an electrically conductive particle such as conductive carbon particles, and a solvent such as toluene. This coating is then dried to form the electrode.

Advantageously, preparation of the materials according to the present invention may be accomplished without fluorine doping and with surprising stability.

#### IV. Some Theories For Certain Observed Stabilization Effects

Electrode materials of the type described herein would typically be used in high energy density lithium storage batteries. The capacity fade that occurs with cycling for certain types of such batteries (repeated discharge and charge) can be attributed to a number of possible factors.  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$  has a layered-type crystal structure. During discharge, lithium ions are inserted into a  $\text{Li}_{1.2+x'}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$  structure (typically  $0 \leq x' \leq 2.8$ ). Capacity fade phenomena could result, for example, either from (1) structural fatigue due to anisotropic variations in the lattice parameters during charge and discharge, or (2) migration of vanadium ions from their original positions into the layers occupied by lithium, thereby, restricting lithium mobility, or (3) the dissolution of some vanadium containing species from the crystal lattice into the electrolyte, or (4) a loss of oxygen from the electrode structure at or near the fully charged state, or various combinations of (1), (2), (3), and (4).

In preferred lithium vanadium oxide cathode arrangements according to the present invention, at the "top of the charge," the vanadium is in an average oxidation state approaching  $\text{V}^{5+}$  (typically and preferably about 4.933, more generally at least 4.7) and at the end of discharge it is closer to  $\text{V}^{4+}$ . Vanadium in lower oxidation states (such as  $\text{V}^{3+}$ ) is believed to be somewhat more soluble in certain electrolytes than at higher oxidation states (such as  $\text{V}^{4+}$ ). This could be partly responsible for some of the observed deterioration of the cathode operation, with cycling for certain types of batteries.

Without being bound to any particular theory, it is presently believed that the M-cation doped systems are stabilized by introduction of the M cations into the crystal structure. Related samples with fluorine doping (i.e., substitution of fluoride ions for oxygen ions in the crystal structure) disclosed in U.S. Patent Application No. 08/985,441 (filed December 5, 1997) have previously shown improved electrochemical performance, the reasons for which are now more completely understood. Scanning electron microscopy revealed that one feature of fluorine doping was to reduce the particle size of the standard  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$  samples. It has now been discovered that this physical property of the material can be achieved by alternative processing methods without the necessary use of fluorine,

for example by high energy ball milling of the  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$  to reduce particle size. Furthermore, using fluorine-based materials in laboratory and production processes is generally neither desirable nor advantageous because of their high chemical reactivity and the special handling procedures typically required. It is now  
5 believed that the reason for the improved stability of the metal oxide framework by transition metal substitution for vanadium can be attributed to differences in strength between vanadium-oxygen and M-oxygen bonds, although the invention is not necessarily limited by this theory. Therefore, it is believed that the introduction of M cations into the structure, in the absence of fluorine, may add  
10 integrity to the vanadium oxide crystalline structure, as a result of the introduction of strong M-oxygen bonds. The net result of this could be inhibiting vanadium migration, inhibiting solubility, and/or suppressing oxygen loss at the top of charge, although this should not be limiting to the invention. Thus, in some instances, the slight modification to the electrode composition and crystal structure  
15 may manifest itself by a lessening of capacity fade.

In general, the preferred formulations provided are arrived at by focusing on two principal factors:

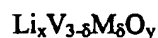
1. A desire to maintain the vanadium valence state at the top of charge, as close to 4.933 as reasonably possible, and more generally at least 4.7 (preferably  
20 at least 4.8, more preferably at least 4.85, even more preferably at least 4.9, and most preferably at or near 4.933) in the stabilized  $\text{Li}_x\text{V}_3\text{O}_y$  (preferably  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$ ) crystal structure; and
2. Introduction of no more M cations into the crystalline structure than is useful to achieve the desired level of stabilization, because of a desire not to  
25 greatly depart from the stoichiometry of the  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$  base (i.e., to maximize the available capacity of the electrode), and to avoid the use of fluorine (a chemically aggressive reagent) in the oxide.

In general, the crystalline structure of  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$  is layered. In the standard structure, three vanadium ions and one lithium ion typically occupy octahedral  
30 sites in the  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$  structure; the remaining 0.2 lithium ions occupy tetrahedral sites. During discharge, the lithium ions migrate into neighboring octahedral sites to generate a stable defect rocksalt structure,  $\text{Li}_4\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$ , which is the approximate

composition at the end of discharge. The stoichiometric rocksalt composition,  $\text{Li}_5\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$ , is not easily attainable at the end of the electrochemical discharge.

**V. General Formulae of Preferred Materials Based on the Above-Recited Principles and Descriptions.**

A general formula of a preferred vanadium oxide material, useable as a cathode material as described above at least when defined in the charged state, would be as follows:



wherein preferably:

- (a)  $0 < \delta \leq 1.0$  (more preferably  $0.05 \leq \delta \leq 0.3$ );
- (b)  $7.8 < y \leq 8.2$ ;
- (c)  $x$  is non-zero (typically and preferably  $1.0 \leq x \leq 1.5$  and more preferably  $x$  is about 1.2);
- (d)  $x$  and  $y$  are selected such that the average, calculated oxidation state of V is at least 4.7; and,
- (e) M represents a cation (preferably, at least two different cations). Suitable cations are those that are sufficiently small that they can fit into sites previously occupied by vanadium (typically, octahedral sites) and/or sites previously occupied by lithium (typically, octahedral or tetrahedral sites).

Preferred electrodes comprise a vanadium oxide material according to the formulae recited above; and, preferred battery constructions include at least one preferred electrode as characterized. The values of  $x$ ,  $\delta$ , and  $y$  are average values.

- It should be appreciated that in some instances M may be a mixture of cations and thus the term " $\text{M}_\delta$ " is intended to include mixtures of cations. In such instances the limitation on " $\delta$ " is intended to be on the averaged cation "M" resulting from averaging the valence of the various  $\text{M}'$ ,  $\text{M}''$ , etc., using a mole-weighted, valence-charge-balance formula consistent with the general formula  $\text{Li}_x\text{V}_{3-\delta}\text{M}_\delta\text{O}_y$ . Particularly preferred electrodes which contain a mixture of cations are those in which M is derived from Mg, Al, Y, Ti, Zr, and Mo.

As indicated above, the formulae given herein for the preferred vanadium oxide materials are generally in reference to the material as it would be found in an electrode in the fully charged state (i.e., upon initial synthesis of the material). During discharge, and intercalation, a lithium ion introduction will modify the formulae.

#### VL An Example of Battery Construction

Typically battery constructions that can use the preferred cathode materials according to the present invention include otherwise conventional coin cells, wound cells, and stacked cells in which the cathode oxide is replaced with the preferred oxide(s) described herein. Various useable conventional constructions are described in Handbook of Batteries, 2d Ed., edited by D. Linden et al., McGraw-Hill, 1995.

An example cell is shown in Fig. 18. The cell may generally be made according to the description of U.S. Patent 4,803,137 (Mayazaki et al.), except in that the cathode includes a vanadium oxide material as described herein. Referring to Fig. 18, the cell depicted includes: a cathode 1; a positive electrode current collector 2; a positive electrode casing 3; an anode 4; a negative electrode current collector 5; a negative electrode casing 6; separator/electrolyte 7; and, insulating polypropylene gasket 8. With a vanadium oxide material as described herein, the cell would operate in the otherwise typical fashion.

Another schematic illustration of the electrochemical cell is shown in Fig. 19. The cell is designated 15, and the anode (negative electrode), electrolyte and cathode (positive electrode) are designated 11, 12, and 13, respectively, with the anode 11 separated from the cathode 13 by the electrolyte 12. Suitable terminals designated 14 are provided in electronic contact with the anode 11 and the cathode 13. The cell 15 is contained in a housing, designated 16, which insulates the anode from the cathode. The cell 15 may include, at the cathode 13, vanadium oxide material according to the present invention.

Objects and advantages of this invention are further illustrated by the following examples, but the particular materials and amounts thereof recited in

these examples, as well as other conditions and details, should not be construed to unduly limit this invention.

## 5 Experimental

### A. Preparation of Materials

#### $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$

1.2 moles of  $\text{LiOH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) and 3 moles of  $\text{NH}_4\text{VO}_3$  (Aldrich) were suspended in methanol and milled in a Sweco (paint shaker) mill (Sweco, Florence, KY) in a polyethylene container with yttria stabilized  $\text{ZrO}_2$  grinding spheres (Tosoh Corporation, Tokyo, Japan) for 48 hours. The methanol was evaporated by heating above 70 °C in a fumehood and the dry solid precursor was heat treated in air. The sample was heated to 400°C at a rate of 1°C/minute, and held at 400°C for 24 hours, then allowed to cool to room temperature (1°C/minute cooling rate). The product was ground manually to a fine powder and submitted for phase identification by powder X-ray diffraction on a Seimens D-5000 diffractometer (Madison, WI) (Figure 1).

#### $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.8}\text{Ti}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.1}\text{O}_8$

1.2 moles of  $\text{LiOH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2.8 moles of  $\text{NH}_4\text{VO}_3$ , 0.1 mole of  $\text{Ti}[\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2]_4$  (Aldrich), and 0.1 mole of  $\text{MoO}_3$  (Aldrich) were suspended in methanol and milled as described above for 48 hours. The methanol was evaporated by heating above 70 °C in a fumehood and the dry white solid precursor was heat treated in air. The sample was heated to 400°C at a rate of 1°C/minute, and held at 400°C for 24 hours, then allowed to cool to room temperature (1°C/minute cooling rate). The product was ground manually to a fine powder and submitted for phase identification by powder X-ray diffraction on a Seimens D-5000 diffractometer (Figure 2).

#### 30 $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.9}\text{Ti}_{0.05}\text{Mo}_{0.05}\text{O}_8$

1.2 moles of  $\text{LiOH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2.9 moles of  $\text{NH}_4\text{VO}_3$ , 0.05 mole of  $\text{Ti}[\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2]_4$ , and 0.05 mole of  $\text{MoO}_3$  were suspended in methanol and milled

as described above for 48 hours. The methanol was evaporated by heating above 70 °C in a fumehood and the dry white solid precursor was heat treated in air. The sample was heated to 400°C at a rate of 1°C/minute, and held at 400°C for 24 hours, then allowed to cool to room temperature (1°C/minute cooling rate). The product was ground manually to a fine powder and submitted for phase identification by powder X-ray diffraction on a Seimens D-5000 diffractometer (Figure 3).

**$\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.8}\text{Zr}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.1}\text{O}_8$**

1.2 moles of  $\text{LiOH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2.8 moles of  $\text{NH}_4\text{VO}_3$ , 0.1 mole of  $\text{Zr}[\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2]_4(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHOH}$  (Aldrich), and 0.1 mole of  $\text{MoO}_3$  were suspended in methanol and milled as described above for 48 hours. The methanol was evaporated in a fumehood above 70 °C and the dry white solid precursor was heat treated in air. The sample was heated to 400°C at a rate of 1°C/minute, and held at 400°C for 24 hours, then allowed to cool to room temperature (1°C/minute cooling rate). The product was ground manually to a fine powder and submitted for phase identification by powder X-ray diffraction on a Seimens D-5000 diffractometer (Figure 4).

**$\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.7}\text{Y}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.2}\text{O}_8$**

1.2 moles of  $\text{LiOH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2.7 moles of  $\text{NH}_4\text{VO}_3$ , 0.02 mole of  $\text{Y}_3\text{O}[\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2]_{13}$  (Chemat, Northbridge, CA), and 0.2 moles of  $\text{MoO}_3$  were suspended in methanol and milled as described above for 48 hours. The methanol was evaporated in a fumehood above 70 °C and the dry white solid precursor was heat treated in air. The sample was heated to 400°C at a rate of 1°C/minute, and held at 400°C for 24 hours, then allowed to cool to room temperature (1°C/minute cooling rate). The product was ground manually to a fine powder and submitted for phase identification by powder X-ray diffraction on a Seimens D-5000 diffractometer (Figure 5).

**$\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.7}\text{Sc}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.2}\text{O}_8$** 

1.2 moles of  $\text{LiOH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2.7 moles of  $\text{NH}_4\text{VO}_3$ , 0.1 mole of  $\text{Sc}[\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2]_3$  (Chemat, Northbridge, CA), and 0.2 mole of  $\text{MoO}_3$  were suspended in methanol and milled as described above for 48 hours. The methanol was evaporated in a above 70 °C and the dry white solid precursor was heat treated in air. The sample was heated to 400°C at a rate of 1°C/minute, and held at 400°C for 24 hours, then allowed to cool to room temperature (1°C/minute cooling rate). The product was ground manually to a fine powder and submitted for phase identification by powder X-ray diffraction on a Seimens D-5000 diffractometer (Figure 6).

**B. Alternative Synthesis for Molybdenum and Group IV Transition Metal Doping of  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$  Structure:**

An alternative method to the synthesis described above in part A, is a synthesis having a two step process which involves the preparation of a vanadium-molybdenum-group IV oxide precursor, such as a vanadium-molybdenum-titanium precursor, which is then reacted with a lithium containing reagent.

 **$\text{V}_{2-2x}\text{Ti}_x\text{Mo}_x\text{O}_5$  precursor**

1.8 moles of  $\text{NH}_4\text{VO}_3$ , 0.1 mole of  $\text{Ti}[\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2]_4$ , and 0.1 mole of  $\text{MoO}_3$  were suspended in methanol and milled as described above for 48 hours. The methanol was evaporated in a fumehood above 70 °C and the solid was heated in air. The sample was subsequently heated to 600°C at a rate of 1°C/minute, and held at 600°C for 24 hours, then allowed to cool to room temperature (1°C/minute cooling rate). The product was ground manually to a fine powder and submitted for phase identification by powder X-ray diffraction on a Seimens D-5000 diffractometer (Figure 7).

 **$\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.7}\text{Ti}_{0.15}\text{Mo}_{0.15}\text{O}_8$** 

1.2 moles of  $\text{LiOH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and 1.5 moles of  $\text{V}_{2-2x}\text{Ti}_x\text{Mo}_x\text{O}_5$  (as prepared above with  $x = 0.1$ ) were suspended in methanol and milled as described above for 48 hours. The methanol was evaporated in a fumehood above 70 °C and the solid was



heat treated in air. The sample was heated to 400°C at a rate of 1°C/minute, and held at 400°C for 24 hours, then allowed to cool to room temperature (1°C/minute cooling rate). The product was ground manually to a fine powder and submitted for phase identification by powder X-ray diffraction on a Seimens D-5000 diffractometer (Figure 8).

### **C. Electrochemical Testing**

The materials prepared above were screened for electrochemical performance in "1225" or "2032" coin cells (12 mm x 2.5 mm high and 20 mm x 3.2 mm high, respectively). Blended materials for cathode laminates were prepared by: 1) mixing by weight 81% active material, 10% KYNAR (binder) (Elf-Atochem, Philadelphia, PA), and 9% carbon (Cabot Corporation, Boston, MA); and 2) ball milling the materials in a Sweco (paint shaker) mill (Sweco, Florence, KY) in tetrahydrofuran (Aldrich) or 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone (Aldrich) with yttria stabilized ZrO<sub>2</sub> grinding spheres (Tosoh Corporation, Tokyo, Japan).

Laminates were prepared by a doctor blade, whereby a slurry of the blended materials described above were evenly coated onto a thin Al foil about 21 microns thick, and thereafter dried overnight in a vacuum oven at 80°C. The electrolyte used for electrochemical evaluations was a 1 Molar solution of LiPF<sub>6</sub> (Kerr-McGee, Oklahoma City, OK) dissolved in a 50:50 mixture (by volume) of dimethyl carbonate (DMC) and ethylene carbonate (EC) (Kerr-McGee, Oklahoma City, OK). Li/1.0M LiPF<sub>6</sub>, DMC, EC/Li<sub>x</sub>V<sub>3-δ</sub>M<sub>δ</sub>O<sub>y</sub> cells were cycled at constant current (typically 0.1 milliamp (mA)) between 3.1 - 2.1 volts (V).

### **Electrochemical Data**

A typical voltage profile that is obtained during cycling of a standard Li/Li<sub>1.2</sub>V<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> cell is provided in Figure 9. A typical voltage profile of a typical Li/Li<sub>x</sub>V<sub>3-δ</sub>M<sub>δ</sub>O<sub>y</sub> cell of the present invention is provided in Figure 10.

Individual plots of discharge capacity vs. cycle number for a standard Li/Li<sub>1.2</sub>V<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> cell, for a Li/Li<sub>1.2</sub>V<sub>2.8</sub>Ti<sub>0.1</sub>Mo<sub>0.1</sub>O<sub>8</sub> cell, for a Li/Li<sub>1.2</sub>V<sub>2.9</sub>Ti<sub>0.05</sub>Mo<sub>0.05</sub>O<sub>8</sub> cell, for a Li/Li<sub>1.2</sub>V<sub>2.8</sub>Zr<sub>0.1</sub>Mo<sub>0.1</sub>O<sub>8</sub> cell, and for a Li/Li<sub>1.2</sub>V<sub>2.7</sub>Y<sub>0.1</sub>Mo<sub>0.2</sub>O<sub>8</sub> cell in accordance with this invention are shown in Figures 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15,

respectively. It was usually found that one "break-in" cycle with a relatively high initial discharge capacity was necessary before the electrode provided stable electrochemical cycling. The superior cycling stability of the  $\text{Li}_x\text{V}_{3.5}\text{M}_5\text{O}_y$  electrodes of the present invention compared to a standard  $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$  electrode after the first cycle is clearly evident in Figures 11 to 15. This is also demonstrated in Table 1, in which the electrode capacities delivered at cycle 2 and at cycle 20 are listed as well as the overall capacity fade (as a percentage) between cycles 2 and 20 for various  $\text{Li}/\text{Li}_x\text{V}_{3.5}\text{M}_5\text{O}_y$  cells.

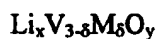
Table 1: Performance of  $\text{Li}_x\text{V}_{3.5}\text{M}_5\text{O}_y$  electrodes in  $\text{Li}/\text{Li}_x\text{V}_{3.5}\text{M}_5\text{O}_y$  cells

Electrode Material	Capacity (mAh/g) Cycle 2	Capacity (mAh/g) Cycle 20	Capacity Fade (%) (Cycle 2 to 20)
$\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$ (control)	208	162	24
$\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.8}\text{Ti}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.1}\text{O}_8$	226	209	5
$\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.9}\text{Ti}_{0.05}\text{Mo}_{0.05}\text{O}_8$	229	204	11
$\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.8}\text{Zr}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.1}\text{O}_8$	181	165	9
$\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.7}\text{Y}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.2}\text{O}_8$	180	156	13
$\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{V}_{2.7}\text{Sc}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.2}\text{O}_8$	177	158	11

The complete disclosures of the patents, patent documents, and publications cited herein are incorporated by reference in their entirety as if each were individually incorporated. Various modifications and alterations to this invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of this invention. It should be understood that this invention is not intended to be unduly limited by the illustrative embodiments and examples set forth herein and that such examples and embodiments are presented by way of example only with the scope of the invention intended to be limited only by the claims set forth herein as follows.

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1. A vanadium oxide material according to the average formula:



5                    wherein:

- (a)  $0 < \delta \leq 1.0$ ;
- (b)  $7.8 < y \leq 8.2$ ;
- (c) x is non-zero;
- (d) x and y are selected such that the average, calculated  
10                    oxidation state of V is at least 4.7; and
- (e) M represents a mixture of at least two different cations.
2. A vanadium oxide material according to claim 1, wherein M is selected  
from the group Mg, Al, Si, P, Sc, Ti, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ge, Y, Zr,  
15                    Nb, Ta, Mo, La, Hf, W, and mixtures thereof.
3. A vanadium oxide material according to claim 2, wherein M is selected  
from the group Mg, Al, Si, Sc, Ti, Y, Zr, Mo, and mixtures thereof.
- 20    4. A vanadium oxide material according to claim 3, wherein M is selected  
from the group Mg, Al, Ti, Y, Zr, Mo, and mixtures thereof.
5. A vanadium oxide material according to claim 1, wherein the average,  
calculated oxidation state of V is at least 4.85.
- 25    6. A vanadium oxide material according to claim 1, wherein x is about 1.0 to  
about 1.5.
7. An electrode comprising a vanadium oxide material according to claim 1.
- 30    8. An electrochemical cell comprising a cathode comprising a vanadium oxide  
material according to claim 1.

1/18

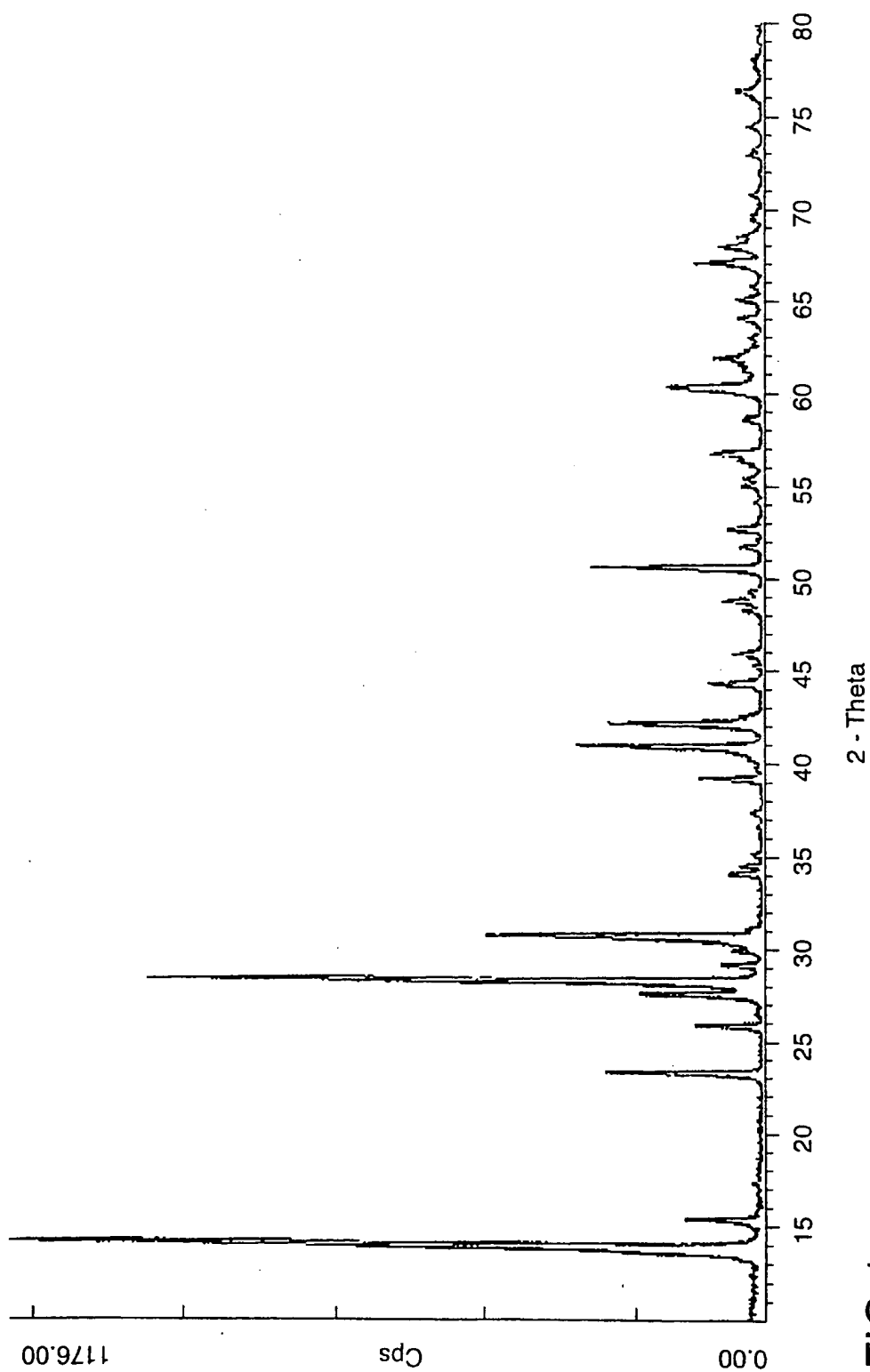


FIG.1

2/18

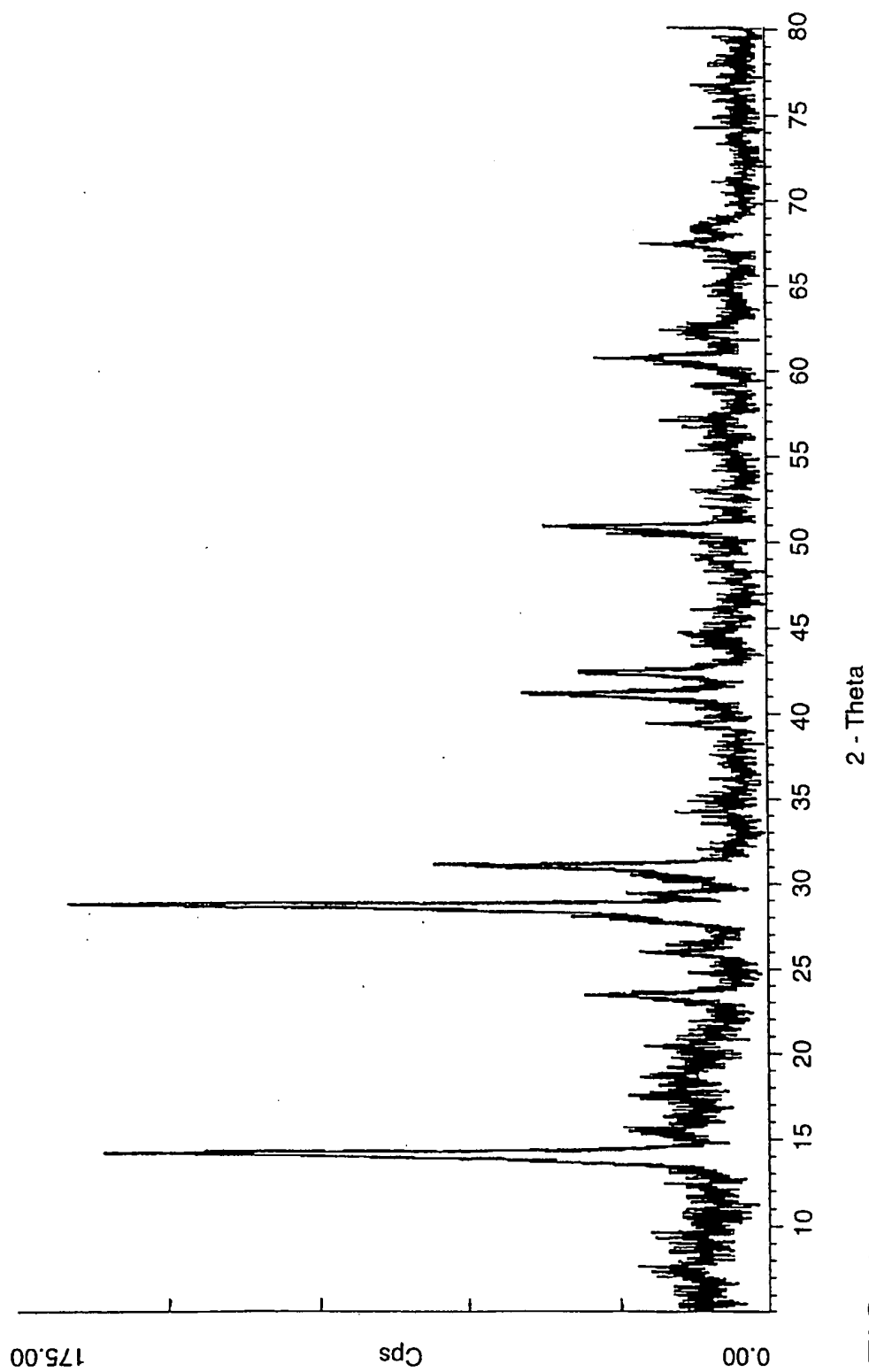


FIG. 2

3/18

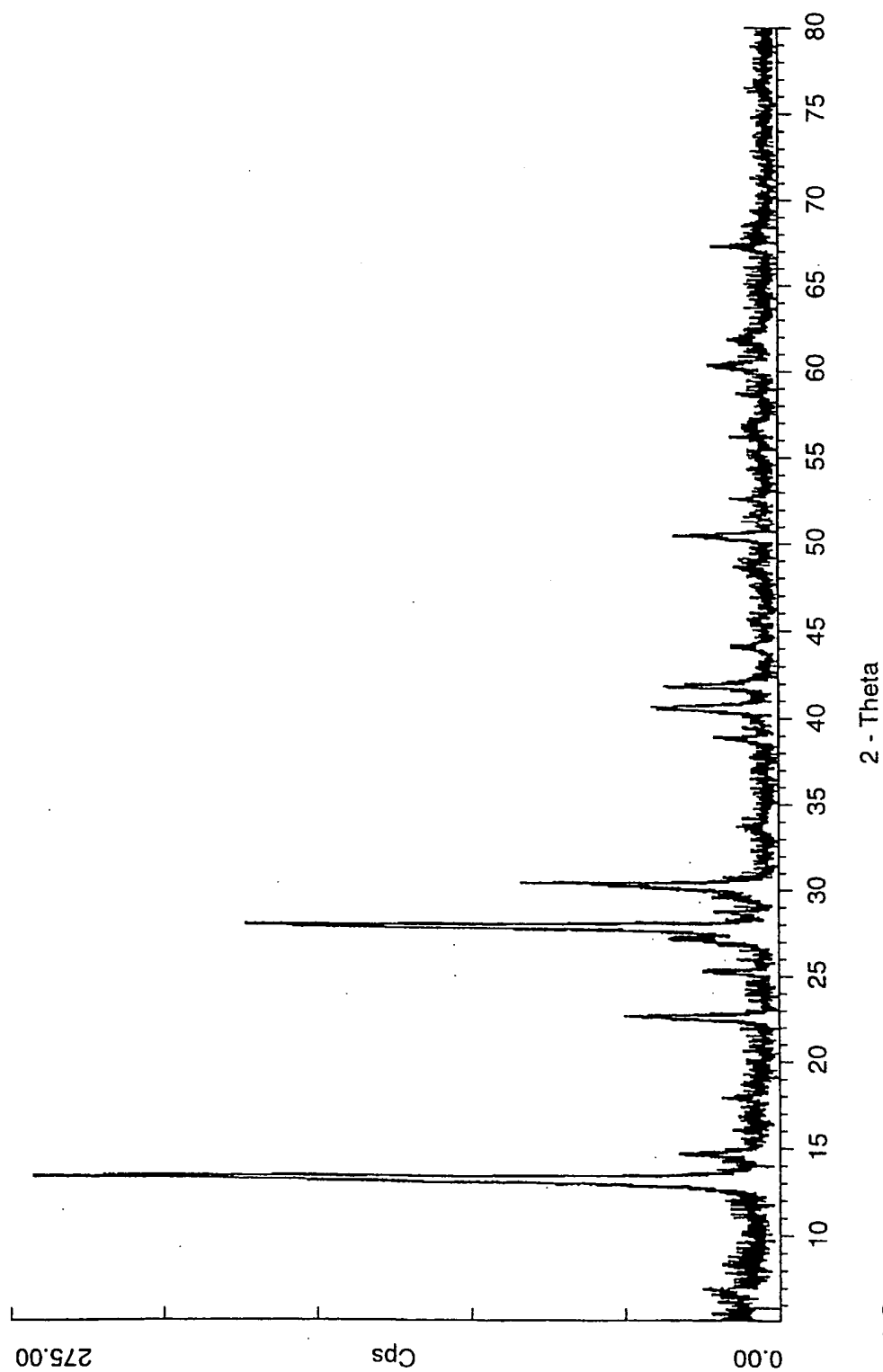


FIG.3

4/18

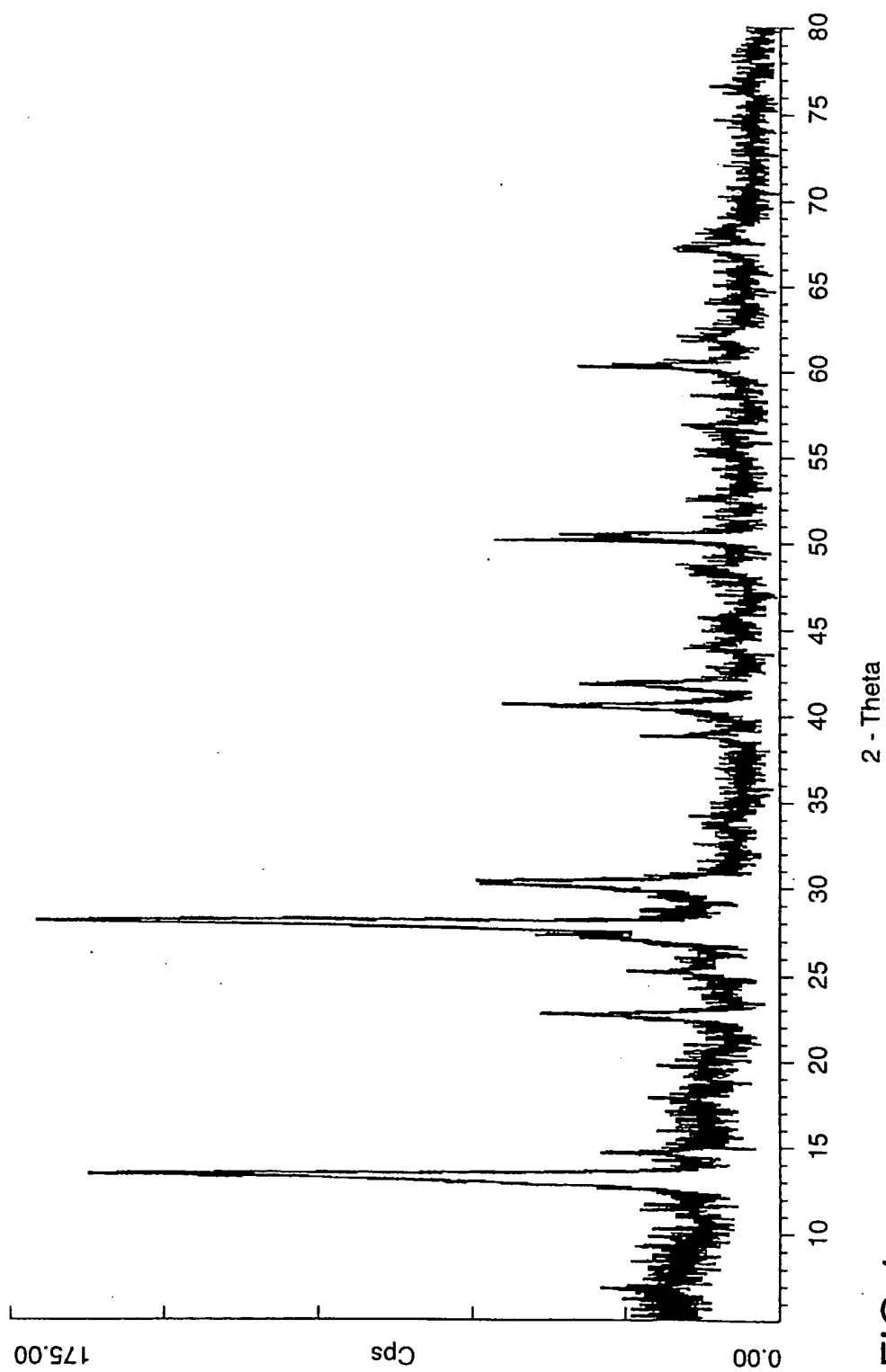


FIG. 4

5/18

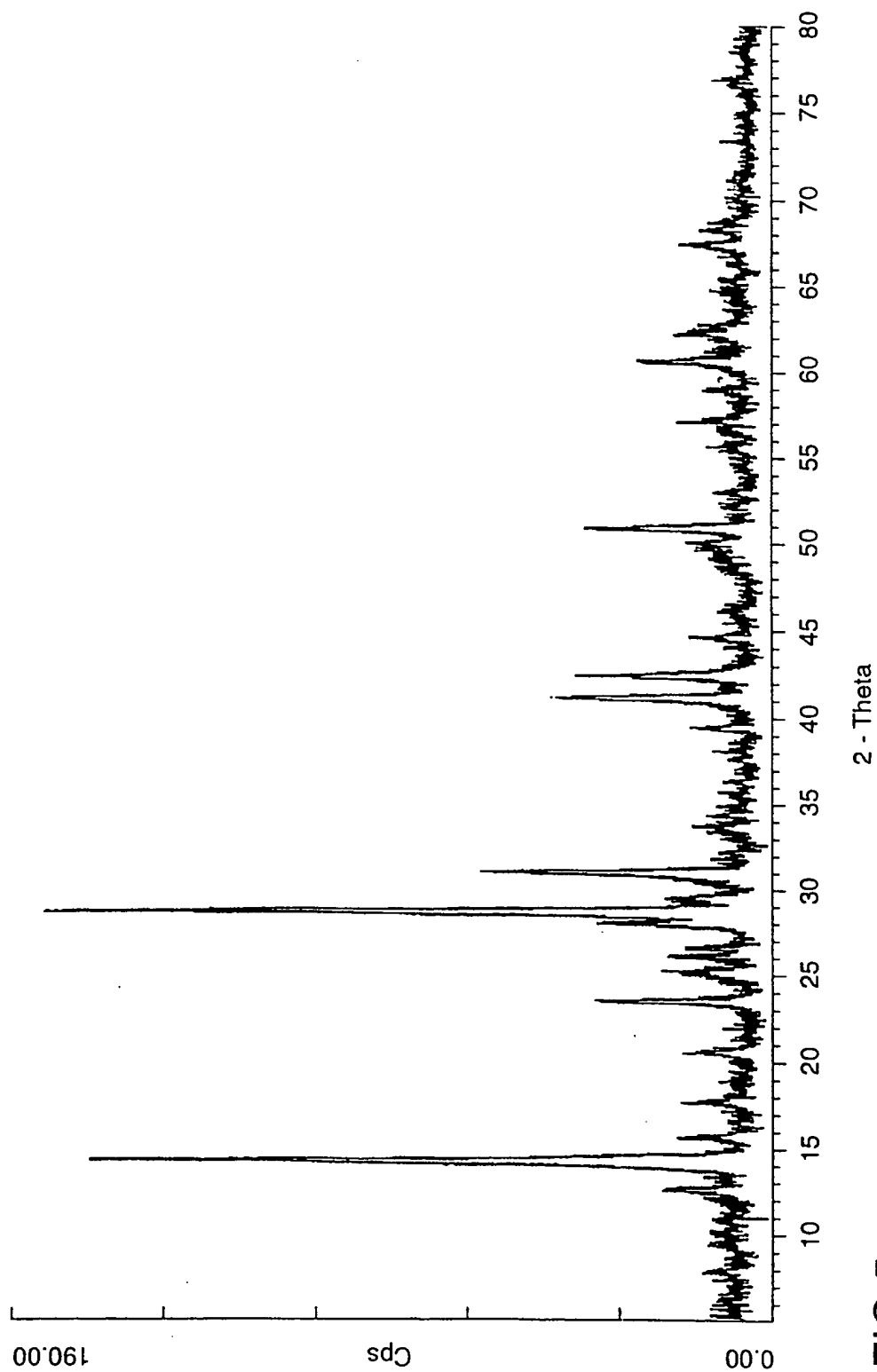


FIG. 5



6/18

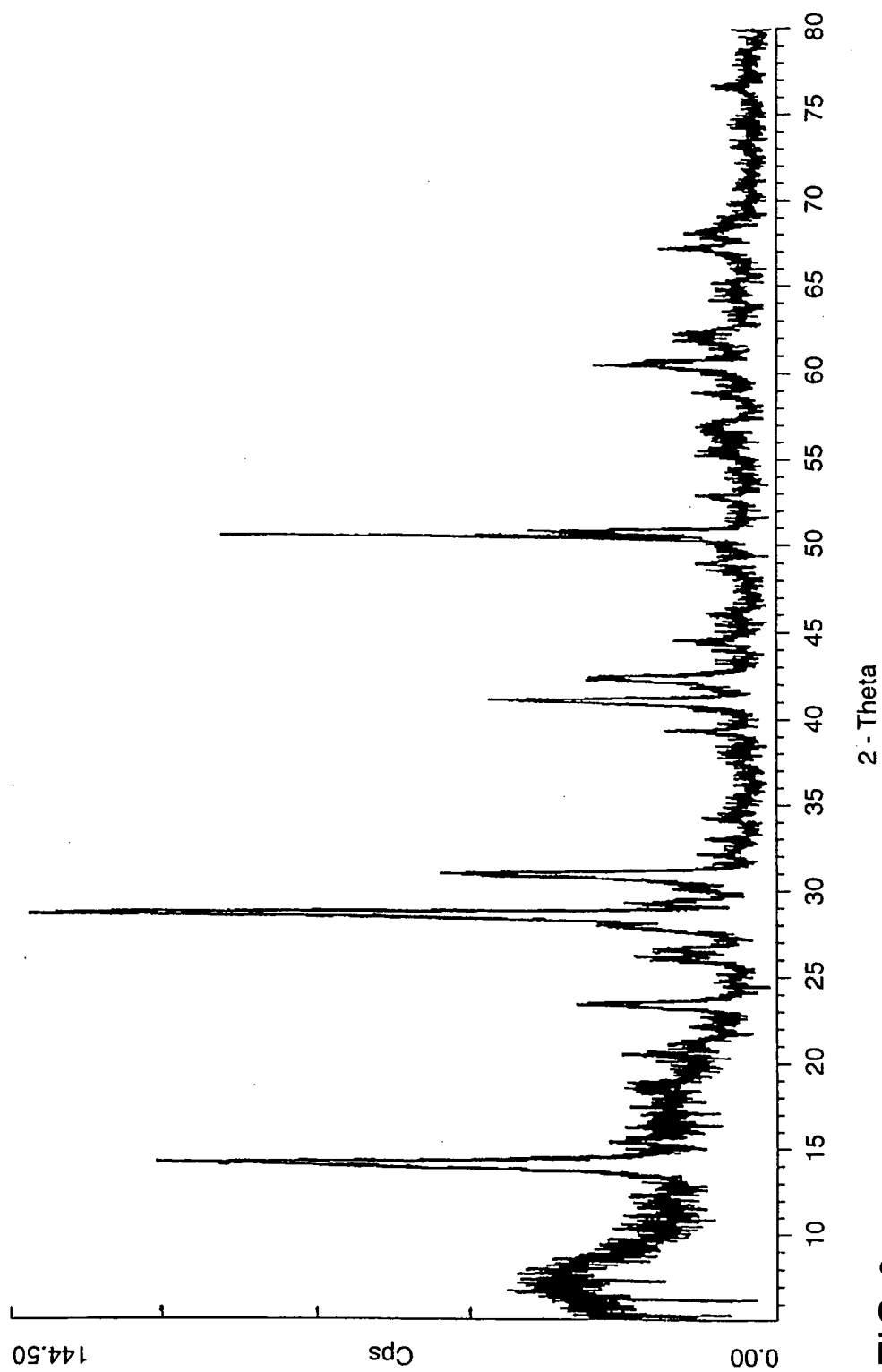


FIG. 6

7/18

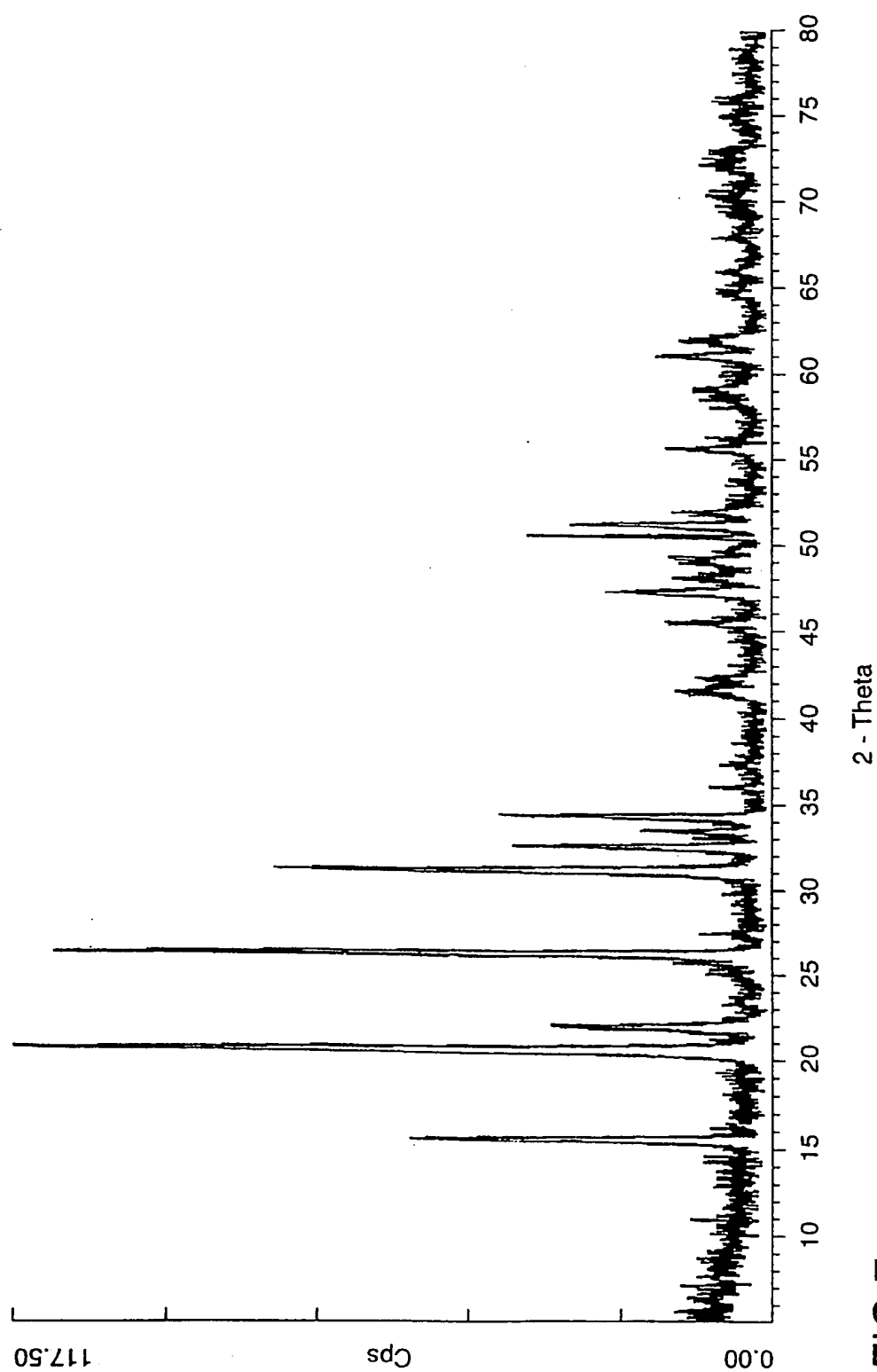


FIG. 7

8/18

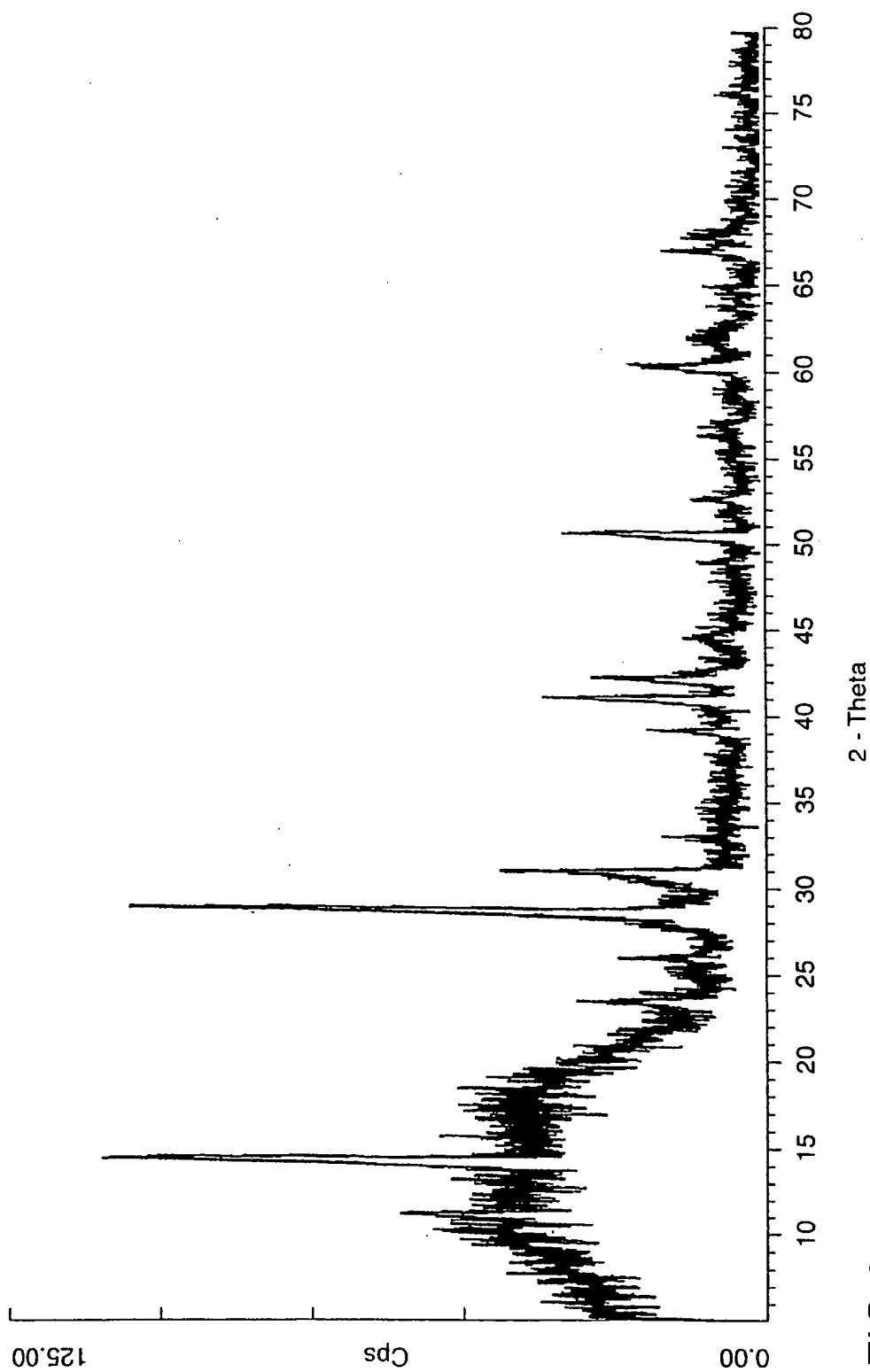


FIG. 8

9/18

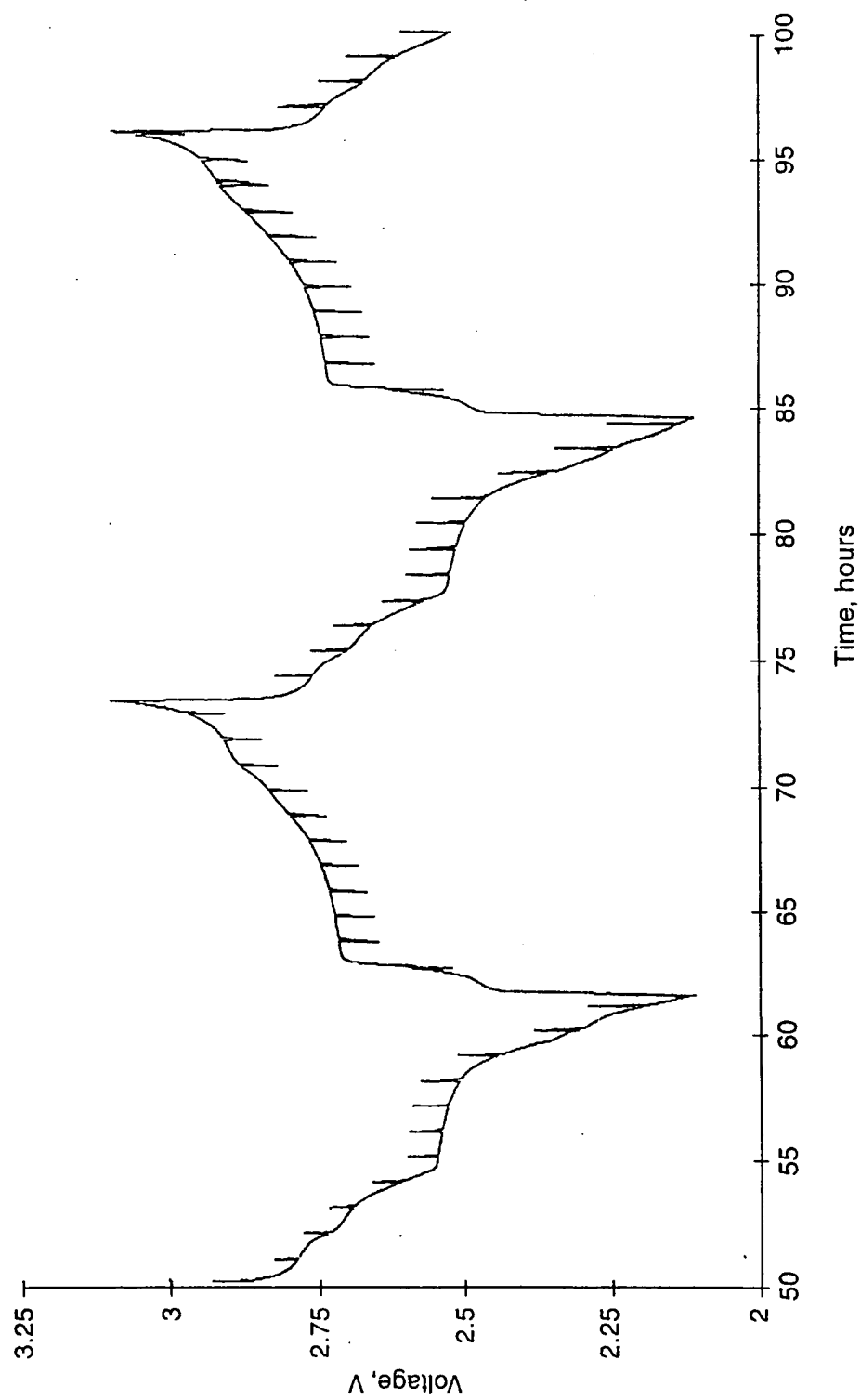


FIG.9

10/18

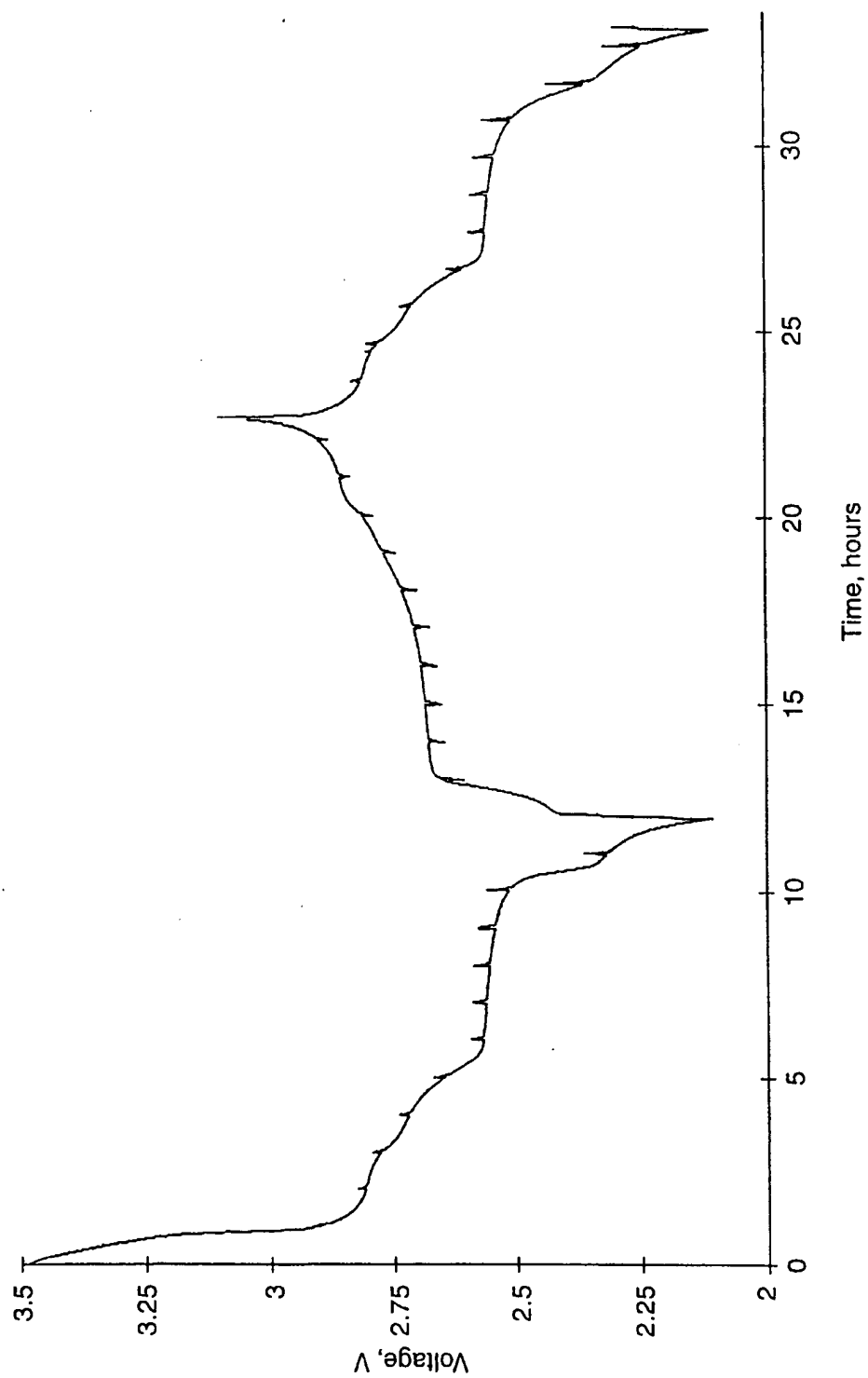


FIG.10

11/18

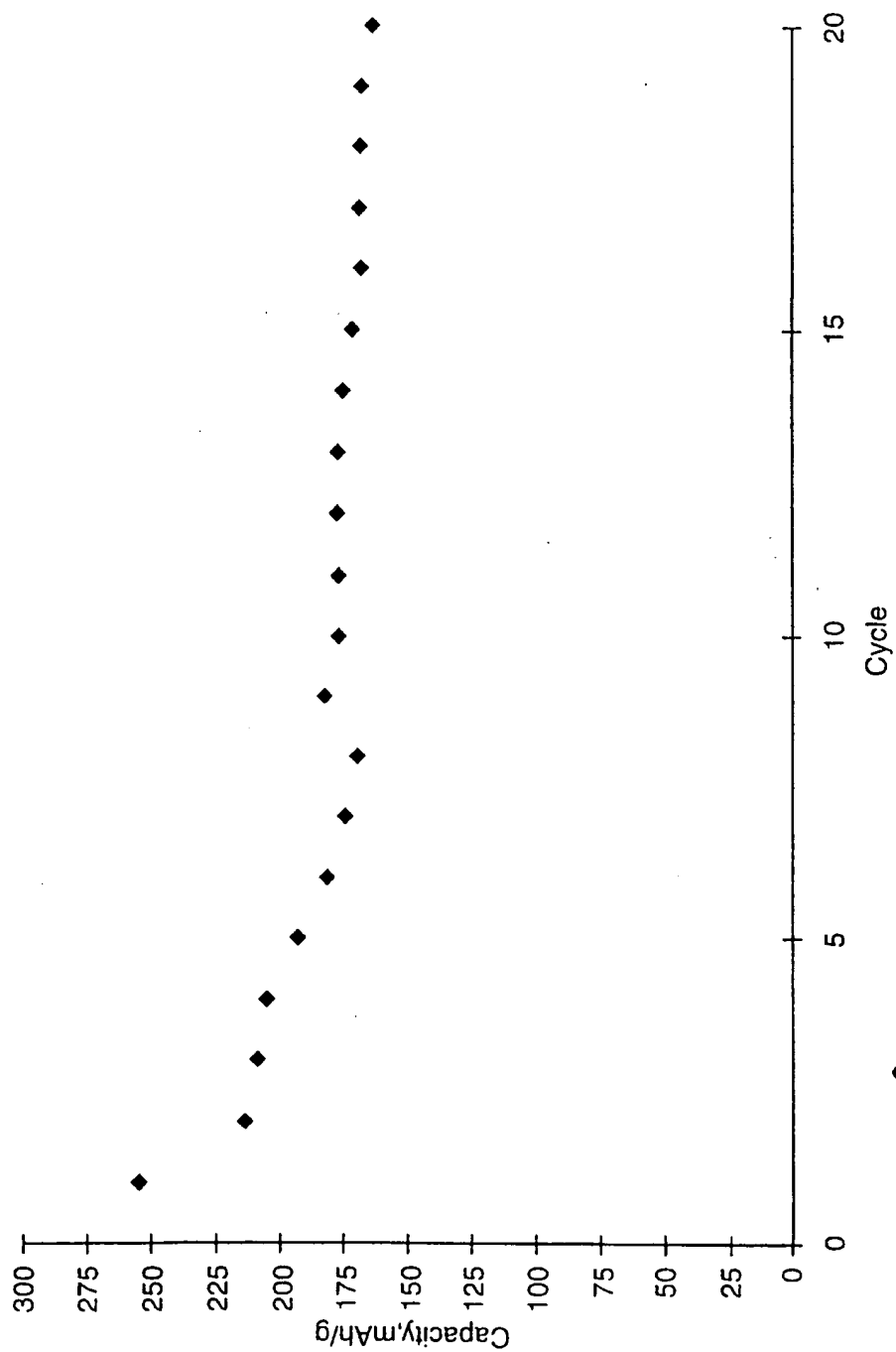


FIG.11

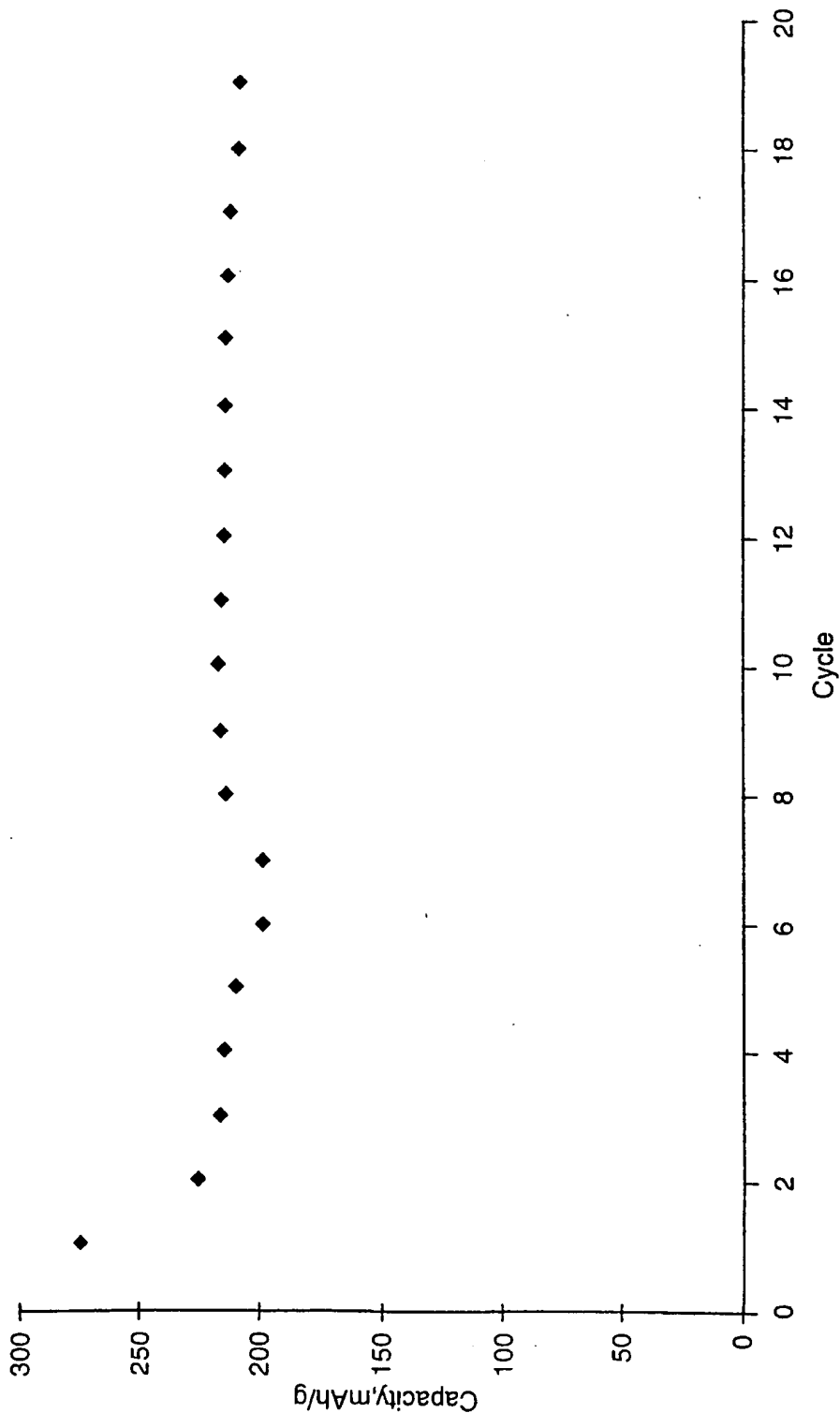


FIG.12

13/18

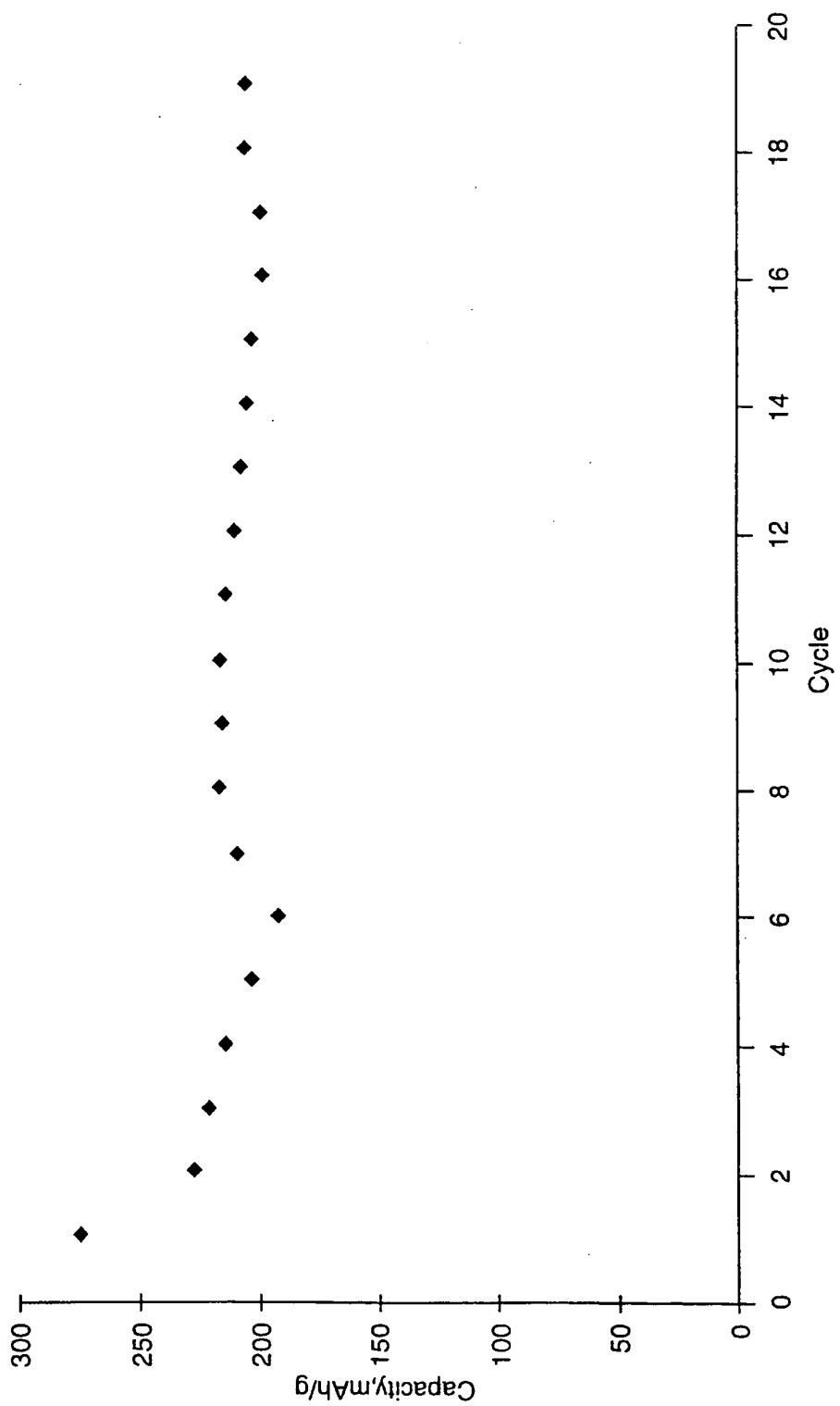


FIG.13



14/18

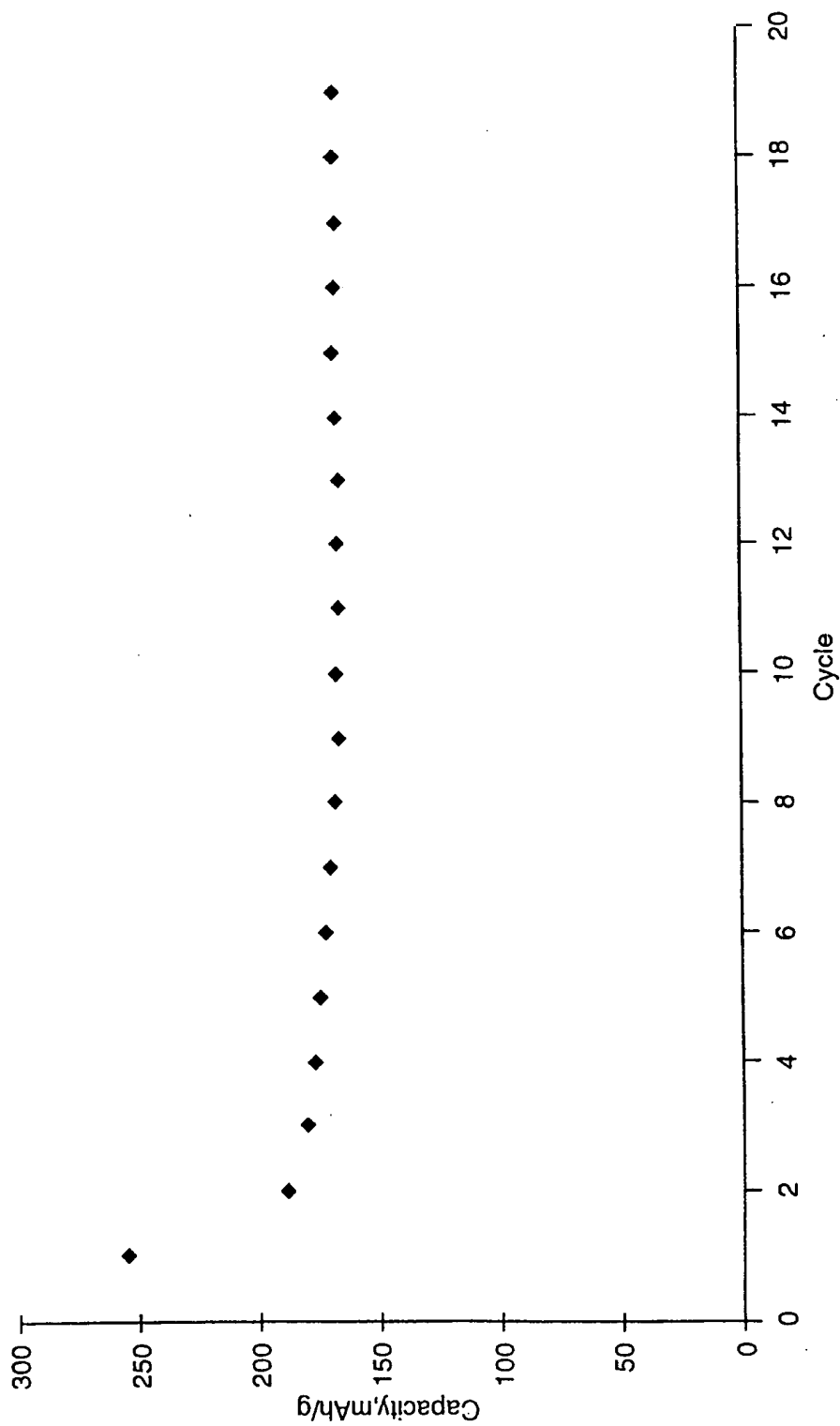


FIG. 14

15/18

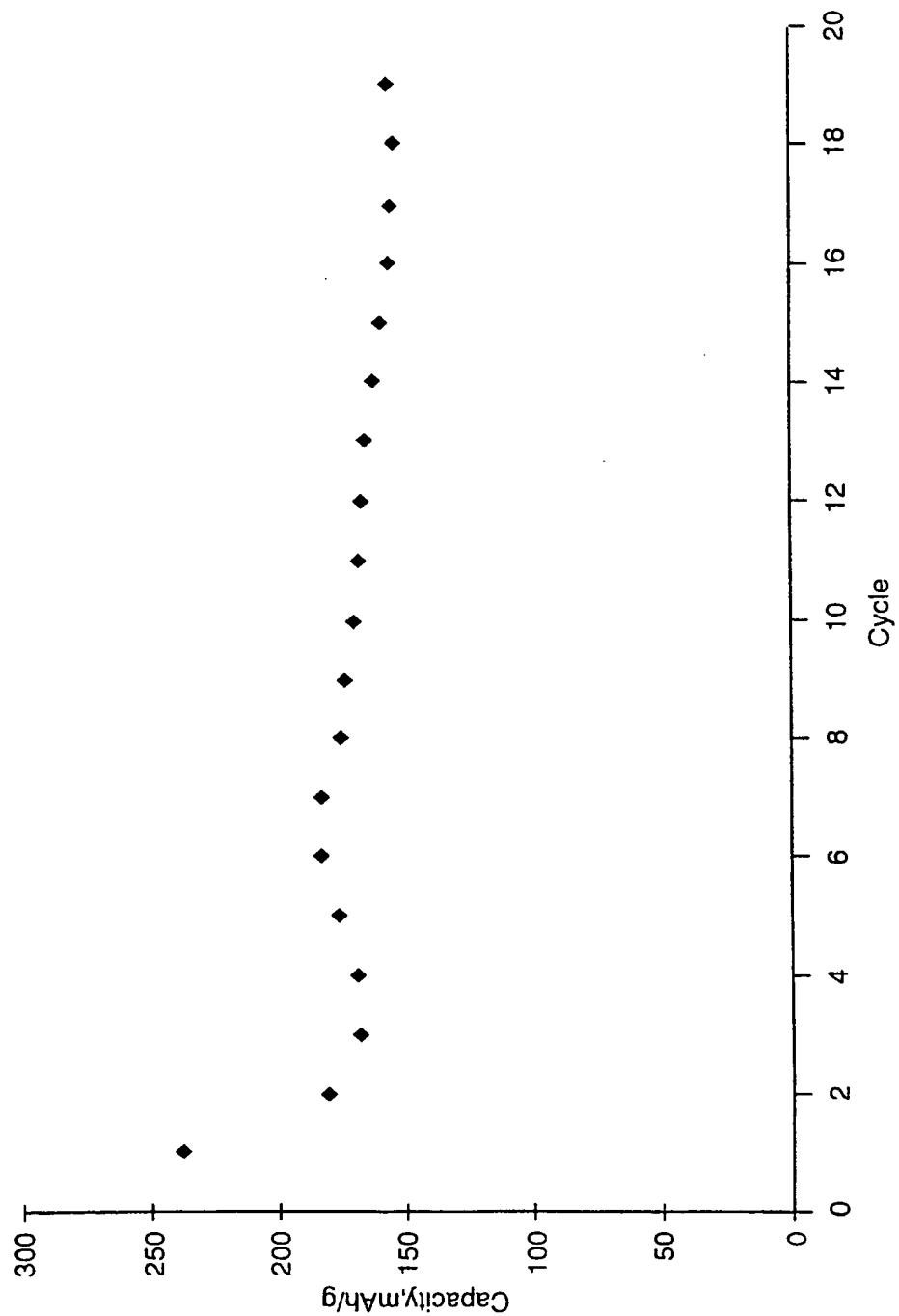


FIG. 15

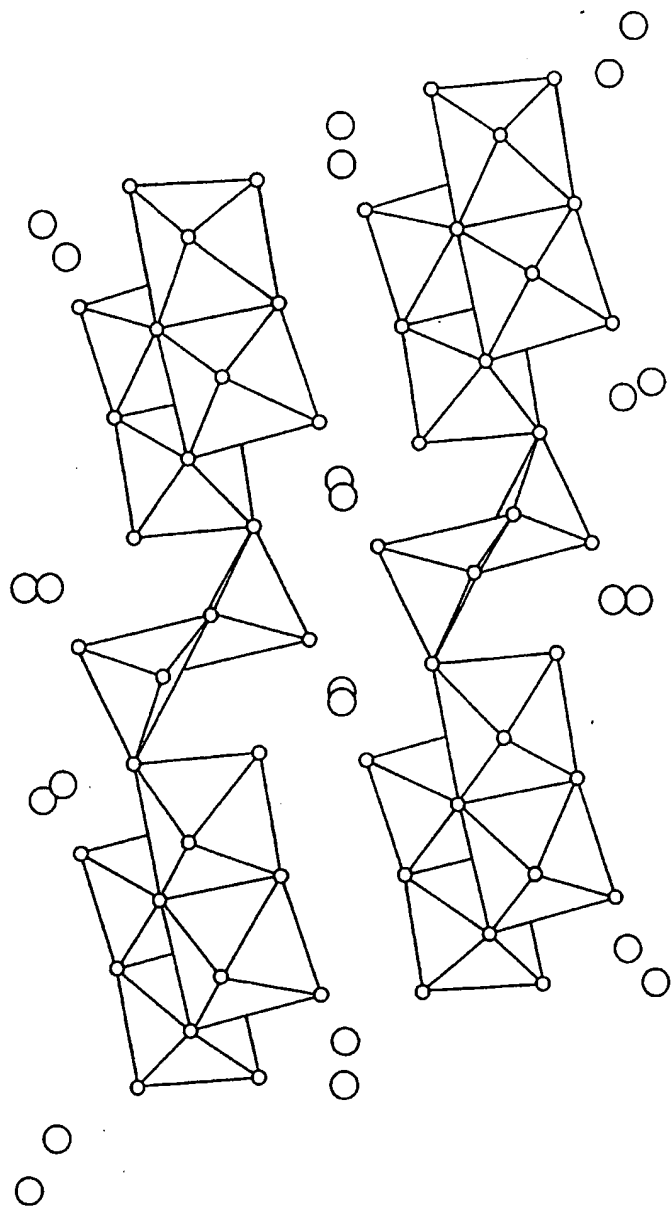


FIG.16

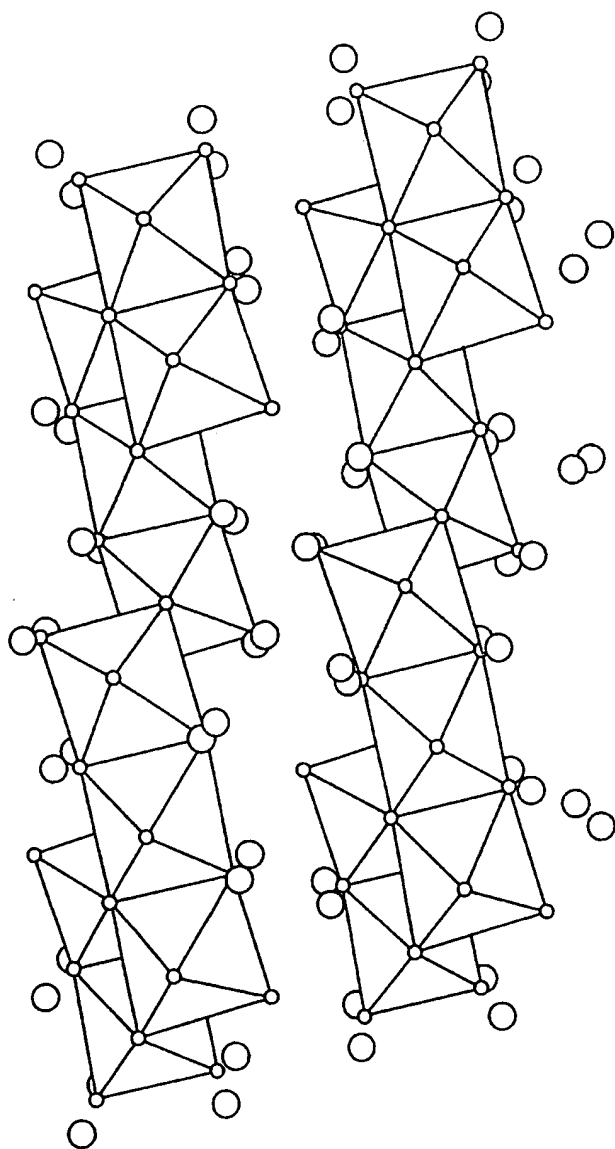


FIG.17

18/18

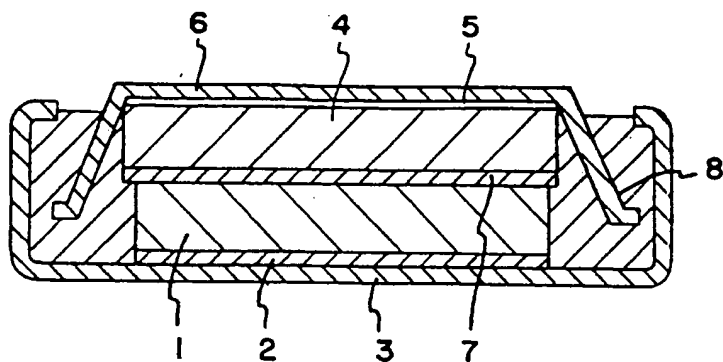


FIG. 18

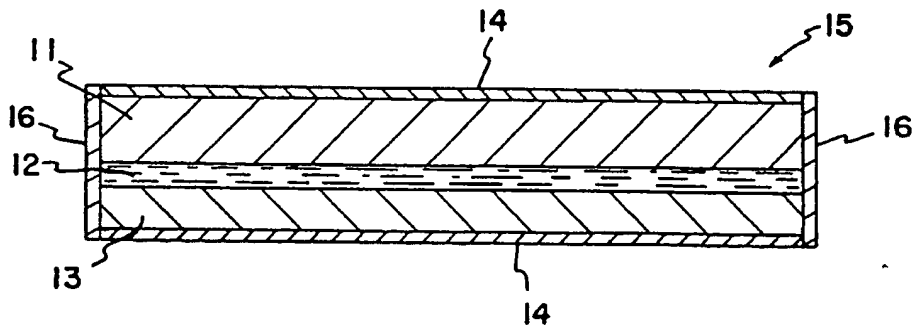


FIG. 19

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No:  
PCT/US 00/04335

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

H01M4/48,H01M4/36

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC<sup>7</sup>

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

H01M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5576120 A (SAIDI M.Y.) 19 November 1996, the whole document. --	1-8
A	US 5260147 A (DELMAS ET AL.) 09 November 1993, the whole document. ----	1-8

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

05 June 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

03.08.00

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## ANHANG

zum internationalen Recherchen-  
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## ANNEX

to the International Search  
Report to the International Patent  
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## NNEXE

au rapport de recherche inter-  
national relatif à la demande de brevet  
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PCT/US 00/04335 SAE 273628

In diesem Anhang sind die Mitglieder  
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US A 5576120	19-11-1996	keine - none - rien	
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		FR B1 2644935	15-05-1996
		JP T2 4503888	09-07-1992
		WO A1 9011623	04-10-1990

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